**Prep News**

**7th November, 2014**

**Orientation at the Prep**

Transitioning into a new school can be a daunting task for some boys and for their families. However, here at the Prep we endeavour to make the transition to our school as smooth and supportive as possible for our new boys. Providing our new boys with an opportunity to experience time at the Prep prior to joining the school is a key element of that transition process.

New students to Years 1-6 for 2015 joined the Prep boys and staff for the day last Friday. After an initial welcome and presentation time together, the boys joined with their 2015 cohort for a taste of daily life at the Prep. To support the process, the boys were paired with a buddy who assisted them on the day and helped them to integrate into the classroom and playground experiences. These boys will continue to be a key link person for our new boys over the coming months and early next year.

To demonstrate their commitment to the new students, the buddies prepared letters for the boys, welcoming them. It is hoped that the buddies will make contact with our new students over the summer break to further develop a relationship, and bring encouragement and support for this transition process. Judging by the smiles and excited recounts in the afternoon of their first day at King’s, our new boys can’t wait for 2015 to begin.

This week, our new Kindergarten boys and their parents joined us at the school for their orientation and first sampling of the daily structure of Prep School life. The Kindy boys will have two further opportunities in subsequent weeks to begin to feel comfortable with their new school.

There are some distinctive differences between some of the operations and philosophical approach taken at the Prep when boys transition from Year 2 to Year 3. This week, an information session was held with parents of our current Year 2 boys to help outline a number of programme, pastoral and organisational matters for 2015, to help them support the transition process into the primary years of schooling.

**Class placements for 2015**

Some parents may be wondering about the procedures for class placement for 2015. **All parents are reminded that the allocation of students to classes is the professional and operational responsibility of School staff.** A great deal of time and thought is invested in the process to ensure that there is a harmonious balance of students in class groupings.

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**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** “The time is always right to do what is right.” *Martin Luther King Jr*
At the end of each year all class groups are dissolved and new groups are formed for the beginning of the new academic year.

**So how are the new classes formed?**

- The current grade teachers set about identifying the specific needs of each boy in their grade and assisting in the formation of balanced classes. Needs taken into consideration include, but are not limited to:
  - A balance of ability levels – we have no streaming of classes in the Prep School. However, if there are certain students who are ‘like-minded’ and who may work well and spark off each other, we may put them together.
  - Learning styles - we take into consideration the match between individual boy’s learning styles and the teaching style of individual teachers.
  - Physical needs.
  - Friendship groups (remembering that some friendships are productive and others can interfere with learning).
  - Group dynamics – to ensure an even spread of personality types, behavioural styles etc.

- The teachers pass on this information to the Prep Executive staff. The final class groupings will be determined by the Prep Executive.

- On occasions, there are changes that occur over the Christmas holiday period. It is not uncommon for there to be a change in circumstances such as a work transfer to another city that may impact upon the enrolment of a child. Upon returning to school in January the lists are reviewed to take account for any student movements over the holidays (thus affecting the dynamics of friendship groups and so on).

- The boys are informed about their class placement upon their return to school on the first day in Term One.

We appreciate that parents are often concerned about the placement of their own child into classes and may have in mind a teacher of their ‘choice’. The boys too may have a particular teacher in mind as they move onto the next grade. At times, this can lead to disappointment on the part of the parent or the child when they are not placed into this class. Additionally, at times teachers may move from one grade to another. It is important to help the boys understand how to deal with initial disappointment and how to focus on the positives. As parents, we need to help foster and model resilience and a positive outlook when facing challenges to help equip our sons for life.

Please understand that it is not possible to accept particular requests or to make changes in placement once they have been announced. It is our experience that any sense of disappointment soon fades as the school term starts and the boys become swept up in the excitement of beginning a new year and seeing their friends again.

There is no doubt that this is a time consuming and demanding process. The staff at King’s do their best to treat each child as an individual and endeavour to place them in class groupings that will promote a happy and successful learning environment. We ask for your trust in the professionalism and dedication of the staff to carry out this duty sincerely and carefully.

Peter Allison
Head of the Preparatory School

**END-OF-YEAR PRESENTS**

It is customary that at the end of each school year the members of each house jointly purchase a thank you gift for each staff member associated with that house. At one time this involved the House Captain in collecting cash, and we felt that this was less-than-ideal. Now we charge to the school fees a set amount of $10 per student to cover this cost. Any parent not wishing to make this contribution is asked to indicate this to me in writing.

Parents often choose to purchase a thank you gift for certain teachers. This is, of course, acceptable and delightful, but by no means obligatory. Occasionally the parents of a class have joined together to purchase a gift for the class teacher. This is not always the best option as:

1. many parents like to give a little something just from themselves to the teacher and
2. the amount sought from each family has sometimes been excessive (especially if a family has more than one boy at King’s).

I would therefore tend to discourage the idea of a joint class present for the teacher. However, if the parents of a particular class are determined to go down this path, I would recommend an amount of $5 per child.

Peter Allison
Head of the Preparatory School
Year Six Enterprise Project
Our Year Six boys have been working hard over the last few months to complete their Enterprise projects. All boys and parents will be able to view the projects. On Thursday, 13th November, from 3:20 to 4:30 pm, the projects will be available for viewing, with afternoon tea, for the Year Six parents and boys only. Boys in other year groups will be taken with their class to view the projects on Friday, 14th November. Parents from other year groups and other members of the School community are invited to view the projects during the day on Friday or on Friday afternoon. The projects will be packed up at 4:30 pm Friday afternoon.

Showcase Assembly
Last week we held a Showcase Assembly, where the boys who were successful in the Public Speaking and Poetry Recitation Competitions presented their pieces to the rest of the School and a large number of parents. I was thrilled with the level of confidence and skill from all our boys from Kindergarten to Year Six. I would like to congratulate the following boys:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Speaking Competition</th>
<th>First Place</th>
<th>Runners-up</th>
<th>Highly Commended</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>AJ Nashed</td>
<td>SDM Madson and LI O’Grady</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>M Xi</td>
<td>D Jeng and E Nassif</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>PT Maheswaran</td>
<td>A Sharma and JAN Lattimer</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>TS Engsall</td>
<td>SM Turner</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
<td>J Gill</td>
<td>C Dissanayake and J Donley</td>
<td>AS Cenan</td>
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<td>Year 5</td>
<td>BT Sayer</td>
<td>J Hua</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>AA Sabra</td>
<td>CC Taylor</td>
<td>RJC Mills</td>
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<tr>
<th>Poetry Recitation Competition</th>
<th>First Place</th>
<th>Runners-up</th>
<th>Highly Commended</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>MS Nauta Hendriks</td>
<td>BZM Johnston and C Camilleri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>JC Somanader and H Yeh</td>
<td>M Xi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>JAN Lattimer</td>
<td>A Sharma and PT Maheswaran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>LM Horner</td>
<td>SM Turner</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>TMC Emery</td>
<td>C Dissanayake</td>
<td>VPS Benepal and J Donley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>NR Horne</td>
<td>TAS Gilmore</td>
<td>DD Elton and J Hua</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6 (Faversham and Farnham Junior Oratory Prizes)</td>
<td>PD Tripathi</td>
<td>KA Ward</td>
<td>CJ Staikos and T Albertyn</td>
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Presentation Day
This year’s Presentation Day for Years 3-6 will be held on Thursday 4th December in Futter Hall. This event is a compulsory event for all boys in Years 3-6. The day will be a wonderful way of celebrating the successes of our boys in the Prep and commences at 2:00 pm. There will not be any supervision of the boys on that day and times to arrive at Futter Hall will be sent out closer to the event.

Greg Blackman
Deputy Head of the Preparatory School
Your attention is drawn to some valuable resources for the goal of raising children who are emotionally secure.

WELLBEING AUSTRALIA
‘Wellbeing Australia is a not-for-profit network of people and organisations committed to developing the healthy relationships that lead to individual and community wellbeing, especially in education’.

The website is a networking tool for the development of relationships that promote wellbeing, hence impacting society for the better. It promotes personal integrity, a positive and solution based focus, and emotional literacy.

I invite families to investigate the many articles and events featured on the website


Twitter feed: @WellbeingOz

RAISING CHILDREN NETWORK – THE AUSTRALIAN PARENTING WEBSITE
This online resource covers the span from newborns, babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers, school age, pre-teens, early teens, special needs, and grown ups.

The school age section, for example, has the following headlines: Behaviour, Connecting and Communicating, Development, Health and Daily Care, Nutrition and Fitness, Play and Learning, Safety, Sleep.

News and highlights feature, along with videos, articles and development guides.

I invite families to investigate this wealth of resources on the website

http://raisingchildren.net.au/

Twitter feed: Raising Children@RCN_AUS

KIDSMATTER
‘Kidsmatter Primary is a mental health and wellbeing framework, highlighting proven methods, tools and support for schools, parents, carers and the wider community to nurture happy, balanced kids’.

The family section deals with topics such as: Mental Health Basics, Friendships, Learning, Fears and Worries, Children and Bullying, Services and Supports, Mental Health Difficulties, Discipline, Anger, Grief, Separated Families.

I invite families to inquire into this valuable resource, rich site

http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au

Twitter feed: Kidsmatter@KidsMatterAus

Belinda Baxter
bsb@kings.edu.au
### Key Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, 9 November 2014</td>
<td>Remembrance Day message in chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 10 November 2014</td>
<td>Pre Enterprise Camp Briefing for Year 6 boys (10:50 am)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 11 November 2014</td>
<td>Remembrance Day Assembly/ Special Assembly (10:50 am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 12 November 2014</td>
<td>Kindy 2015 Big School #1 (9:00-11:30 am)</td>
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<td>Year 1 Harvest Day (11:30am - 1:00 pm)</td>
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<td>Thursday, 13 November 2014</td>
<td>Year Six Enterprise Projects Display for Year 6 families only (3:00 pm)</td>
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<td>Friday, 14 November 2014</td>
<td>Year Six Enterprise Projects Display for whole School community</td>
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<td>Prep School Tour (9:30 am)</td>
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<td>St Pats Invitational Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(1:00-3:00 pm) – (Year 3-5 Swim Team only)</td>
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<td>Saturday, 15 November 2014</td>
<td>Summer Sport Round 12</td>
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<td>Sunday, 16 November 2014</td>
<td>K-2 Swim and Survive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 17 November 2014</td>
<td>K-2 Swim and Survive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 18 November 2014</td>
<td>Band Night 6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 19 November 2014</td>
<td>K-2 Swim and Survive</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kindy 2015 Big School #2 (9:00-11:30 am)</td>
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<td>Thursday, 20 November 2014</td>
<td>K-2 Swim and Survive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 21 November 2014</td>
<td>Electric Music Performance K-6 (8:25 and 9:30 Performances)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>K-6 House Picnics (Boys and Staff only)</td>
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<td>Year 2 Dads and Lads Sleepover</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, 22 November 2014</td>
<td>Chamber Choir Rehearsal - Horrocks Hall (9:00-11:00 am)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>No Sport</td>
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### Buzz Day with Thomas House

Thomas House raised some wonderful money for the Diabetes Association during the week. Each Thomas House boy donated a bag of jellybeans and they worked all week collecting guesses from excited Prep potential winners for the jelly bean guessing competition. This great cause has been very close to the hearts of the Thomas House boys and they were keen to make it their charity again for 2014. When Mrs Reuben’s daughter Natasha was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes a number of years ago, the boys decided to rally around her and support finding a cure for this terrible disease. We have had a few Type 1 boys through the Prep and it has given Thomas House a great feeling to know that they have supported such a worthwhile cause.

This year we raised over $1200 and we congratulated Edward Selig and Lawrence Wei on winning the jelly bean guessing competitions.

We all enjoyed an ice block at recess to celebrate and help Natasha and give her hope that one day there will be a cure!

Jo Grinham  
Thomas Housemaster
Charity Fatigue!?! Hopefully not……..

This year Stiles House will once again be co-ordinating a collection of food and presents for those people in Sydney for whom Christmas is sadly not a time of celebration, rather disappointment and despair. Anglicare arranges for thousands of food hampers and gifts to be distributed each year and the call is out for the King’s School Community to support this important appeal again this year. In 2013 we again filled a truck with food and toys for the families of Sydney who would otherwise go without. I understand that many families have already made contributions to a range of charities that we support at King’s, but I ask that you once again respond to help those people closer to home, who are in desperate need.

The boys have been given some background during assembly about the problems that confront many families in Australia at Christmas. Often we feel helpless and wonder how it is possible to make a difference. By involving the boys in the TOYS ‘N’ TUCKER APPEAL we hope to show the boys their role, however small they feel it is, does in fact make a difference because it is part of a collective action across the country. Our appeal will run from now until the Friday 28th November.

Please have a look next time you do your shopping and buy some of these items; non-perishable foodstuffs such as packets of pasta, tins of fruit, soups and the like, are all suitable. Anglicare has requested that people donate Christmas related food this year. Anglicare provided a detailed list of the best food items to send to school and what gifts are most popular (please no second hand presents). In addition, please avoid glass jars.

Each food hamper gets the following items:
* Tinned fish eg tuna, salmon
* Tinned meat eg ham
* Pasta
* Tinned Soup
* Tinned Fruit
* Tinned Vegetables
* Sweets eg bag of lollies (Preferably not chocolates because they melt!!)
* Packet of Biscuits
* Tea or coffee
* Longlife Milk
* Plum Puddings or Christmas Cakes
* Baked Beans and Spaghetti

In terms of gifts, they suggest the following:
* Board Games
* Soccer Balls/Basket Balls/Cricket Bats etc
* New clothes eg t-shirts, summer dresses for the girls
* Wrapping Paper and Gift Tags
* Bags eg sports bags, backpacks
* Books
* Toiletry gift packs
* Gifts for teenagers (Particularly Teenage Boys - we are always running short of these)
* Preferably NOT Battery operated items (batteries are expensive for families to keep replacing)
* Stationery Sets
* Preferably NOT videos/DVD’s/eds etc (we can't judge which families have video recorders etc)

Anglicare also suggest, aiming for quality rather than quantity. For example, if someone wants to buy $20 worth of toys, it would be better to buy one good gift rather than lots of little things from the $2 shop.

Having said this, all donations are welcomed - but we have found the above items to be the most successful. (FROM ANGLICARE)

This year families, if they are able to, can make a donation by calling Anglicare directly. They accept cheques/money orders, Visa, Master Card, Amex, Diners and direct deposits please call 132622 for details. Donations will help supplement hampers by buying additional toys or food items. See more at their website.
http://anglicare.simplygiving.com.au/about.cfm?&subdomain=anglicare

The collection in previous years has been wonderful and it would be tremendous to see a similar level of support. Please discuss with your children the value of even a small contribution.

At Christmas we remember God’s generosity when He sent Jesus to live his remarkable life, teaching us and setting an example for us all on how to live. By Jesus’ death and resurrection we have hope of life eternal, let us spread hope at Christmas by the act of giving!

Charlie Lavender
(Stiles Housemaster)
COME & TRY RUGBY
Pennant Hills Oval, Britannia St, Pennant Hills

23rd November 10-11:30am

Come along and practice your catching and passing skills, your best side steps and score lots of tries!

"This fun programme for players aged 5-9 years is a great chance to 'Try Rugby'"

Like all U6 and U7 Rugby, this is a no tackling programme focusing on key skills like catch pass, general agility and running with the ball.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Call 0402 677 180
Email registrarbejrc@gmail.com
www.beecroftjuniors.com.au
Beecroft Cherrybrook Junior Rugby Club

BEACROFT JUNIOR RUGBY
SUMMER TOUCH RUGBY 7 A-SIDE COMP
Pennant Hills Oval, Britannia St, Pennant Hills

30th November, 2014

"Come and enter the Beecroft Junior Rugby Inaugral Summer Touch Rugby 7 a-side Competition!"

Put a team together of school mates, team mates or come and join a team on the day! This is a mixed ages competition for players U10-U13 years run on one day at Penna:

- Teams of up to 10 players
- Fast 10 minute matches
- Great prizes

Bring a blanket and a picnic. The BBQ will be going and the Canteen will be open.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Call 0402 677 180
Register by 23 Nov: Email registrarbejrc@gmail.com
www.beecroftjuniors.com.au
Beecroft Cherrybrook Junior Rugby Club

BOOKING FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE PREP SCHOOL OFFICE

TUDOR HOUSE SUMMER CAMP

8 – 12 DECEMBER 2014

With School out for the summer, are you concerned your children will be bored?
Unable to take off work before Christmas?
STOP! The worry is over!
Residential Summer Camp at Tudor House for boys & girls from years 3-5

Laser Tag  Canoeing  Art & Craft  Swimming
Camp Fire  Mad Hair Night  Outdoor Games  Bush Skills  Music & Dance
Bike Track (8-10 bike)  Orienteering  Archery  Camp Cooking
Disco Night

Cost: $570.00 all inclusive.

For further information or to make a booking contact Andrew Norman T: 0414 457 164
Email: norman@tudorhouse.nsw.edu.au
School Holiday Cricket Clinics

Following the success and popularity of our junior cricket clinics since 2010, HKHDCCA / NDCC have planned 4 more clinics during the January 2015 school holidays.

As you can see above, we have 2-day and 3-day clinics with the hours totalling the same for each one. Each clinic will provide a comprehensive coaching program for boys & girls (6-14 years), including video analysis of techniques. The feedback we receive is excellent as the players are coached in small groups and our clinics cater for all cricket standards from beginners to experienced rep. players.


Drinks and sunscreen will be provided (please bring a drink bottle). All players may wish to bring a small snack of food and the players attending the 2-day clinics will need to bring some lunch.

All attendees will receive a clinic t-shirt & white HKHDCCA cap (if they don’t already have them), and a certificate of participation. Players with their own kits are encouraged to bring them, although all necessary gear will be supplied. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills in a fun environment and receive coaching from leading NDCC and HKHDCCA coaches with Level 1 & 2 qualifications.

Online registration is easy via the following link: http://eeurl.com/59gjp

Cost: $130 if registration and payment received by 22-Dec-14. $145 for late regos after that date.

Discounts: – $10 off registration fee for second and subsequent members of the same family.

A further $15 can be deducted if your child wears his blue t-shirt & white cap from a previous clinic.

Another $20 discount is available if your child registers to attend two of our clinics in January 2015.

1. Preferred method of payment – Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), please make payment via your internet banking into the following account: Bank: Westpac (HKHDCCA bank account)

Account Name: Hornsby Ku-ring-gai & Hills District Cricket Coaches’ Association (HKHDCCA)

BSB: 032 376 Account No.: 303428 Detail required with deposit: Your child’s name.

2. If paying by cheque, make cheques payable to HKHDCCA and post to the HKHDCCA Treasurer, PO Box 95, Berowra NSW 2081. Registrations will be confirmed by email.

Rod Hokin (HKHDCCA Head Coach / TKS 1st XI Coach) rsh@kings.edu.au 0414 899 009
Josh Miller (HKHDCCA Secretary / TKS 9As Coach) josh.673@hotmail.com 0434 820 806
Bruce Wood (HKHDCCA President) bruce.wood@hkhdca.com.au 0412 688 629